

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-08 ARA-06

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 OES-06 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDE-00 /127 W

-----221740 000706 /50

P R 221626Z FEB 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5382

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 1280

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, US, CCD

SUBJECT: CCD: WESTERN GROUP MEETING, FEB 21, 1977

REF: GENEVA 1182

1. SUMMARY. IN MEETING OF WESTERN GROUP FEB 21, REPS
DISCUSSED PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF UNOFFICIAL MEETINGS
(REFTEL), AS PREPARED BY USDEL. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH UKREP (ALLEN) IN CHAIR, WESTERN GROUP (US, UK,
FRG, ITALY, NETHERLANDS, CANADA, AND JAPAN) MET AT US
MISSION AFTERNOON OF FEB 21. IN RESPONSE UK REP'S INVI-
TATION, USREP STATED THAT DRAFT PROVISIONAL WORK-PROGRAM
TOOK INTO ACCOUNT APPROPRIATE UN RESES AND VIEWS EXPRESSED
BY VARIOUS DELS, INCLUDING THE OTHER CO-CHAIRMAN.

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ADDRESSING SPECIFICS, RE MDW (WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUC-
TION), USREP STATED USG HAD NOT YET REACHED DECISION ON
ENDING EXPERT TO UNOFFICIAL MEETINGS OF CCD ON MDW
BUT THAT WESTERN GROUP WOULD BE INFORMED AS SOON AS
US DECISION MADE. RE CW (KHEMICAL WEAPONS), US REP SAID
WASHINGTON WAS PREPARED TO SET MARCH 28 FOR UNOFFICIAL
CCD CW EXPERTS MEETINGS, FOLLOWED BY US-SOVIET CW

BILATERALS. HOWEVER, USREP REITERATED THAT, DUE TO EXTENSIVE REVIEW OF US CW POLICY, WHICH MAY NOT BE COMPLETED BY THAT DATE, US PARTICIPATION IN UNOFFICIAL MEETINGS OF CCD ON CW WITH EXPERTS MAY BE RELATIVELY LIMITED AT THAT TIME. RE CTB (COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN), USREP SAID THAT, LIKE CW, ACTIVE PARTICIPATION ON PART OF US IN ANY DISCUSSIONS OF CTB WOULD BE DEPENDENT ON STATE OF POLICY REVIEW. USREP CONCLUDED GENERAL REMARKS BY STATING THAT USG PRESENTLY DID NOT FAVOR CONVENING SUMMER SESSION OF CCD PRIOR TO JULY 5 (I.E., AFTER THE END OF THE SEABED ARMS CONTROL TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE), BUT WOULD BE INFLUENCED BY CCD DELS VIEWS AND US ABILITY TO COMMENCE DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS.

3. THE CHAIR THEN OPENED THE FLOOR FOR COMMENTS. ITALIAN REP (DIBERNARDO) SAID THAT UNOFFICIAL CW MEETINGS COULD PROVE USEFUL IF LINKED WITH ITALIAN PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON CW, AND THAT WITHOUT "CONCRETE STEPS" PROPOSED BY ITALIAN DEL MEETINGS WOULD BE UNPRODUCTIVE, A "USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITHOUT IMPACT." ITALIAN REP THEN ASKED THAT GROUP SET DATE FOR CONVENING OF AD HOC WORKING GROUP. USREP RESPONDED THAT US COULD NOT AGREE TO AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON CW UNTIL US POLICY REVIEW WAS COMPLETED, BEING CONCERNED TOO EARLY CONVOCAION WOULD IMPLY MORE RAPID PROCESS THAN WARRANTED, AND ALSO COULD LEAD TO PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON CW, WHICH US ALSO PRESENTLY OPPOSED.

4. CANADIAN REP (JAY) SAID HE WOULD ADDRESS CCD FEB 24
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ON PROCEDURAL ISSUES AND WOULD SUPPORT ITALIAN PROPOSAL BUT WOULD EMPHASIZE THAT AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON CW ONLY BE ESTABLISHED AT "APPROPRIATE TIME." CANADIAN REP THEN ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN "UNOFFICIAL MEETINGS," "PLENARIES," AND "WORKING GROUPS." HE ASKED HOW BILATERALS BECAME PART OF "CCD MACHINERY," SUGGESTING IT MIGHT BE WISE TO DOWNPLAY US-SOVIET CW BILATERALS.

5. FRG REP (SCHLAICH) SAID FRG FAVORED UNOFFICIAL EXPERTS' MEETING ON CW IN ORDER TO "CLEAR UP" PRINCIPLES AND LISTED SCOPE, VERIFICATION, LETHAL AGENTS AND MUNITIONS. SUGGESTED INTERESTED WESTERN GROUP NATIONS MEET FOR PRELIMINARY CW DISCUSSIONS PRIOR TO US-SOVIET BILATERALS. USREP AGREED THAT FURTHER EXPOSURE OF CW ISSUES WAS NEEDED. CANADIAN REP EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT UNOFFICIAL MEETINGS WHICH DID NOT CALL FOR STARTING NEGOTIATIONS WOULD LOOK LIKE "STALLING". US REP REPLIED THAT THAT COULD BE CASE BUT THAT US WAS NOT PREPARED TO GO BEYOND POINT WHERE WE COULD PARTICIPATE MEANINGFULLY.

UK REP SUGGESTED ATTACHING AGENDA TO UNOFFICIAL CW MEETINGS ALONG LINES MENTIONED BY FRG REP, THUS MAKING MEETINGS APPEAR MORE "STRUCTURED" AND "SERIOUS". NETHERLANDS REP (VAN DER KLAUW) SUPPORTED FRG AND UK VIEWS.

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6. FRG REP WHILE STATING FRG SUPPORT OF UNOFFICIAL MEETINGS, ASKED IF OPEN-ENDED EXPERTS GROUP ON CW, OPEN TO NON-CCD MEMBERS WAS POSSIBILITY.

7. CANADIAN REP, RETURNING TO ITALIAN PROPOSAL, ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO SET UP UNOFFICIAL MEETING WHICH WOULD HAVE AS PART OF ITS AGENDA SETTING TERMS OF REFERENCE AND TIME FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF ITALIAN-PROPOSED AD HOC WORKING GROUP.

8. JAPANESE REP (OGISO) EXPRESSED SUPPORT OF UNOFFICIAL MEETINGS ON CW SAYING THAT THEY COULD BE "FRUITFUL" AND

WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN. ASKED THAT CONSIDERATION OF CW PAPER COMPILED BY SECRETARIAT, AS

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PROPOSED BY SWEDES AT 1976 CCD, BE ADDED TO AGENDA OF UNOFFICIAL CW MEETINGS AFTER CONSIDERATION OF BRITISH DRAFT CONVENTION ON CW. STATED JAPANESE VIEW THAT THEY SAW SOME "PROFIT" IN DELAYING CW WORKING GROUP UNTIL SUMMER SESSION OF CCD.

9. NETHERLANDS REP, WHILE RECOGNIZING DIFFICULTIES OF SCHEDULING MEETINGS EASTER WEEK, EXPRESSED INTEREST IN EXTENDING CW DISCUSSIONS TO APRIL 5 RPT 5 OR 6 RPT 6, BUT STATED THAT HE DID NOT FAVOR EXPANDING CW NEGOTIATIONS BEYOND CCD. US REP SAID US DID NOT FAVOR EXPANDING STRUCTURE EITHER. CANADIAN REP ALSO EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR UNOFFICIAL MEETINGS ON CW, MORE DEFINITE AGENDA FOR CW MEETINGS AND EXTENSION OF CW MEETINGS.

10. TURNING TO COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATING PROGRAM, NETHERLANDS REP, JOINED BY UK AND FRG REPS, ASKED WHAT WOULD BE DISCUSSED UNDER THAT HEADING. US REP SAID NIGERIAN RESOLUTION INTRODUCED AT 1976 UNGA. FRG REP ASKED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ISSUE TITLED "PROCEDURES" AND ISSUE TITLED "COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATING PROGRAM." US REP RESPONDED THAT "PROCEDURES" WOULD DEAL WITH SPECIFIC CCD RPOCEDURES AND ORGANIZATION, WHILE "COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM"

APPEARED INTENDED TO ELABORATE ON MORE GENERAL AND CONCEPTUAL APPROACHES TO DISARMAMENT, WHICH SEEMED BOTH EXCESSIVE IN REACH AND RIGID IN ORDER OF PROGRAM.

11. CANADIAN REP THEN STATED SUPPORT OF CONSENSUS PROCEDURE, LIMITED MEMBERSHIP, AND DISTANCE FROM UN ORGANIZATION, AS "INTRINSIC" TO CCD. ALSO EXPRESSED SUPPORT OF CO-CHAIRMANSHIP ADDING THAT ONLY GOOD REASON, LIKE POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING IN FRANCE AND PRC, WOULD SWAY CANADIAN STANCE ON CO-CHAIRMANSHIP ISSUE.

12. JAPANESE REP ASKED IF PLENARY DISCUSSION OF CTB MIGHT
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BE POSSIBLE, IF US POLICY REVIEW OF ISSUE IS COMPLETED BY THAT TIME. US REP REPLIED THAT THIS WOULD DEPEND ON COMPLETION OF REVIEW.

13. CANADIAN REP SAID THAT HE NOW RECOGNIZED THAT IT MIGHT BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO ADJOUR CCD SPRING SESSION EARLY. FRG

REP PROPOSED CONVENING WESTERN GROUP MEETINGS ON
MONDAYS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

14. NETHERLANDS REP SAID HE HAD WORD FROM THE HAGUE
THAT DUTCH FAVORED WYZNER FOR PRESIDENT SEABED REVIEW
CONFERENCE (DETAILS CONTAINED SEPTTEL). CHAIR CONCLUDED
THAT DAY'S BUSINESS WAS COMPLETED AND ADJOURNED MEETING
AFTER AGREEING TO CONVENE AGAIN FEB 28. CATTO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA01280
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 GENEVA 1182
Retention: 0
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3267613
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CCD: WESTERN GROUP MEETING, FEB 21, 1977
TAGS: PARM, US, CCD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9841f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009